



St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ASH WEDNESDAY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025
12PM AND 7PM



“Turn our hearts around.
Flood our souls completely.
Wash us in your love.”

—From “Turn Our Hearts Around,” Lenten Sunday Gospel Hymn

ASH WEDNESDAY

A Rule of Life is a commitment to a core set of practices that support growth in a Jesus-Centered life. The Episcopal Church names its Rule of Life *The Way of Love*.

The Way of Love offers seven practices for a Jesus-centered life. One of them is TURN. During Lent 2025, St. Francis' liturgy and Lenten offerings will focus on this practice. When we TURN, we pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus. With God's help, we can turn from the powers of sin, hatred, fear, injustice, and oppression toward the way of truth, love, hope, justice, and freedom. In turning, we reorient our lives to Jesus Christ, falling in love again, again, and again.

The *Book of Common Prayer* offers an ancient pastoral rite which can help us to turn to the way of truth, love and hope; it is called the Reconciliation of a Penitent (BCP, p. 447). In this sacramental rite, a person confesses their sins to God in the presence of a priest and receives the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution. In other traditions, this rite is also called penance or confession. We invite you to take part in this powerful experience of naming and releasing those things that separate us from God to make new space for grace, restoration, and fullness of life, on Wednesday evenings in Lent from 5pm-7pm. See the newsletter link or email Laurie+ to set an appointment.

We love pictures and videos, and we love sharing what we do on social media. When attending our events or services, you agree to our using pictures of you and any children in your charge on social media and elsewhere. If you prefer not to be included in photos or video, please inform a staff member or usher.

THE ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY

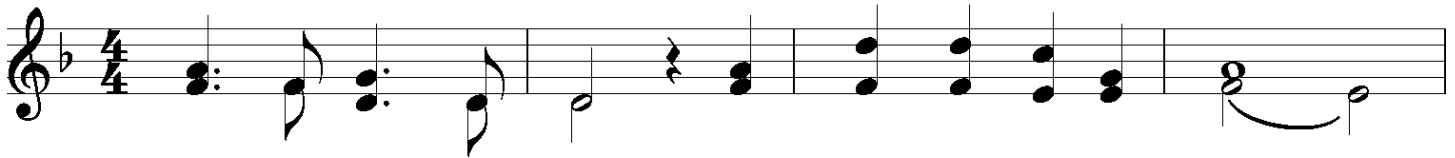
PRELUDE

O THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS

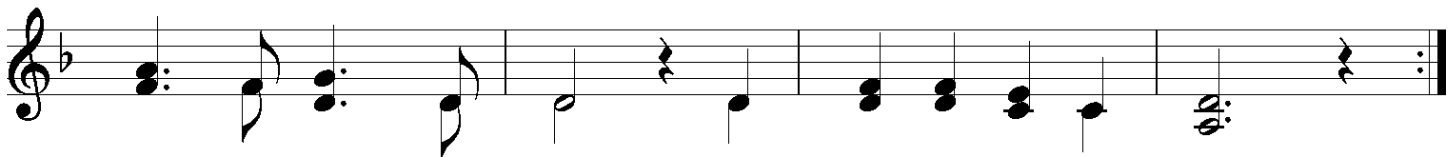
GATHERING HYMN

BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL

WLP 825



Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *Sit*

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.

Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;

you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

103

The congregation sings the antiphon one time through before the spoken verses.

The LORD re - mem - bers that we are but dust.

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. **ANTIPHON**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us. **ANTIPHON**

13 As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust. **ANTIPHON**

Sing two times.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord; In -
cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace.

THE GOSPEL

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 6:1-6,16-21

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN

Sing the Gospel Hymn on previous page one time.

HOMILY

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

IMPOSITION OF ASHES *Stand*

Presider Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance—a turning toward God. As a mark of our earthly, finite nature, let us now pause in silence before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time, standing or kneeling.

Presider Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People **Amen.**

The Presider invites the congregation to come forward and imposes ashes using the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After receiving the ashes, please be seated.

Sung repeatedly during the imposition of ashes.

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.
 When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O
 Lord hear my pray'r, Come and lis - ten to me. O

LITANY OF PENITENCE *Presider and People all standing or kneeling together*

Deacon and People

Most holy and merciful One:

**We confess to you and to one another,
 and to the whole communion of saints
 in heaven and on earth,
 that we have sinned by our own fault
 in thought, word, and deed;
 by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not
 loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been
 forgiven.**

Deacon Have mercy on us, Lord.

People **We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to
 the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.**

Deacon Have mercy on us, Lord.

People **We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and
 impatience of our lives,**

Deacon We confess to you, Lord.

People **Our self-indulgent ways, and our exploitation of other people,**

Deacon We confess to you, Lord.

People **Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,**

Deacon We confess to you, Lord.

People **Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,**

Deacon We confess to you, Lord.

People **Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,**

Deacon Accept our repentance, Lord.

People **For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,**

Deacon Accept our repentance, Lord.

People **For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,**

Deacon Accept our repentance, Lord.

People **Restore us, good Lord,**

Deacon Favorable hear us, for your mercy is great.

People **Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,**

Deacon That we may show forth your glory in the world.

People **By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Presider God, Loving Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ, you don't desire the death of sinners, but rather that they turn to you and to life. You have given power to your ministers to declare and pronounce to your people, when they are penitent, that they are absolved of sin. We ask you to pardon and absolve all those who truly repent. Grant us true repentance and through the Holy Spirit, that we may please you this day, and that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, so that at the last we can come to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.

Refrain



Take, O take me as I am.



Sum - mon out what I shall be.



Set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Verses



1. Marked with ash - es we have come,
2. Clay and breath of God are we,
3. Dine we here on bro - ken bread.
4. All who thirst shall gath - er here.
5. Stran - gers all by sin dis - persed;
6. Now we pray by day and night,
7. Strong and weak, be here at home.



we, the world so trou - ble - some,
 E - den gar - den round that tree,
 Here the love - ly world is wed,
 We, the world draw ev - er near:
 God, our moth - er, quench our thirst.
 keep the fast to clear our sight,
 Bold or shy, here laugh, here groan.



we, the mem - bers; Christ, our sum.
 Eve and Ad - am, you and me.
 God's own dar - ling by God led.
 Christ's own blood, this cup so dear.
 Thus is jus - tice here re - hearsd.
 share our goods to set things right.
 Gos - pel weighs too much a - lone.

EUCHARIST *Stand*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.**

By his wounds, we are healed.

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Presider Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, and of Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Presider Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Our bread is gluten-, dairy– and nut-free. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

JESUS WALKED THIS LONESOME VALLEY

Instrumental

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After all have received communion the Presider says

Presider Let us pray.

Presider and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

Taken from Isaiah 58:1-12

Presider May God the Father delight in us as we seek him.

People **Amen.**

Presider May Christ the Redeemer give you the courage to loose the bonds of injustice and to let the oppressed go free.

People **Amen.**

Presider May the Holy Spirit make you like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

People **Amen.**

Presider And may the blessing of One, Holy and Undivided Trinity be with you this day and evermore.

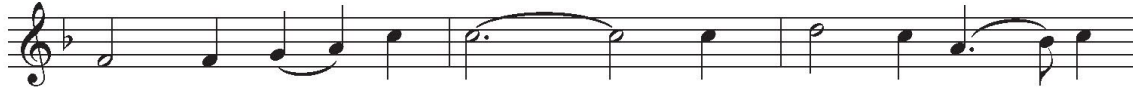
People **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

FROM ASHES TO THE LIVING FONT



1. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your
2. Through fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Your
4. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your



Church must jour - ney, Lord, Bap - tized in grace, in
voice speaks deep with - in, Re - turn - ing us to
Church must jour - ney still, Through cross and tomb to



grace re - newed By your most ho - ly word.
ways of truth And turn - ing us from sin.
East - er joy, In Spir - it - fire ful - filled.

DISMISSAL

Presider Renewed in our commitment to return to the Ageless God of mercy, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**